

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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State Dept. review completed

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Radio Sets

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33. Informant listened to the radio in the village reading room and in the border zastava nearby. Radio receivers in Nova-Lovcha (N 41-25, E 23-44), Nevrokop Okoliya were three wave, and were operated by electric current from Petrovo. There was electricity day and night in the village.
34. Informant stated that replacement parts were available, and that no permit was required to buy small and medium type models. There were only two independent receivers in informant's community, and there was no radio system in the village.
35. Informant stated that the smallest model cost 800 leva; the medium model cost around 1200-1300 leva; and the biggest models cost between 2000-3000 leva.
36. Informant claims that no individual can buy a radio receiver of the biggest model, as it is forbidden to sell them to private persons. They are sold only to the State shops, reading rooms, State institutions, etc.
37. Informant had not heard Radio Goryanin, or any foreign anti-Communist radio stations.

Radio Sets

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38. Informant does not have a radio, but there is a loudspeaker for the wired radio system. He has listened to radio broadcasts, especially by the wired radio system in the village of Kulata (N 41-23, E 23-22), Petrich Okoliya, whose central radio receiver is in the village of Chuchuligovo (N 41-24, E 23-22), Petrich Okoliya. Besides Kulata, this central radio system has branches in the villages of Chuchuligovo, Marino Pole (N 41-25, E 23-21) and Dolno Spanchovo (N 41-25, E 23-23), all in Petrich Okoliya. In the village of Kulata, there are two loudspeakers in the village streets (one in "Horemag") and about 20 in private homes. Besides those, there are eight private radio receivers with three waves in Kulata.
39. The radios operate on electric current. One can buy radio receivers without any difficulties in the State shops. The Communist regime, however, offers to the Bulgarian people only radio receivers of Bulgarian or Bohemian make. The price varies between 1,300 and 2,000 leva for the different models. One can buy radios in State shops without permits.
40. The regime requires a 34 leva tax yearly from every owner of a loudspeaker for the wired radio system. Owners of private radio receivers pay a tax of 60 leva yearly. Informant does not know where the owners pay this tax.
41. Informant listened to the radio four times a week, mostly to Sofia and Moscow radio station. He liked best the folk music on the Sofia radio station. He listened in the mornings and evenings (7 p.m. and 10 p.m.).
42. Informant had not heard Radio Goryanin or any foreign anti-Communist radio stations. He has not heard about them, and is unable to give any information at all about foreign broadcasts.

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25. Approximately 50% of the city houses in Khaskovo have independent radio receivers. [redacted] approximately 10% of the houses had wired receivers (visokogovoriteli), and there were more in the suburbs. Of this group, about 20% were Communist and about 80% anti-Communist. "Visokogovoriteli" were first in the homes of the workers' families. The town of Khaskovo had a city radio system.

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Reaction to Foreign Anti-Communist Broadcasts

26. Informant claims that many of the owners of independent radio receivers are afraid to listen to foreign anti-Communist broadcasts because they think that if the Communists learn of it they will be sent to jail. Only a small percentage of radio owners listened openly without fear to foreign anti-Communist broadcasts.
27. Informant listened most often to the following foreign stations:
- a. Radio Yugoslavia;
 - b. Radio Goryanin;
 - c. Voice of America;
 - d. Radio London;
 - e. Radio Free Europe; and
 - f. Radio Paris.
28. The last foreign anti-Communist broadcast informant heard was Radio Goryanin on 16 July 1954. He heard this [redacted] in Khaskovo around 8:30 p.m.; waves around 46 meters from the sector to the short waves. Informant claims that he listened to foreign broadcasts almost every day between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. He usually listened to Radio Goryanin around 9 a.m., 6 p.m., and 10 p.m.
29. Informant claims that every broadcast of foreign station in the Bulgarian language had been jammed. The stations which were most jammed were Radio Goryanin and Voice of America. According to him, the programs of Radio Yugoslavia could be understood completely; those of VOA, sometimes completely, but other times not at all. Informant claims that on big radio receivers the jamming was not so strong.
30. Informant stated that he listened and spoke with his friends about foreign broadcasts. They usually listened to Voice of America. Informant claims that Radio Goryanin has always been jammed, and it is impossible to understand more than 50% of the program. The jamming is strongest at noon. The evening jamming is not so strong and more of the program can be understood.
31. According to informant, the best time for listening to foreign broadcasts is between 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. He claims that no one listens to radio broadcasts in the early morning and after 12 p.m. According to informant, the best day of the week for broadcasts is Saturday, especially during the evening. Sunday is not so convenient, since many of the people go for walks or visits.

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Resistance

32. During the spring of 1953, a gas station was burned. This station supplied gas for the city of Khaskovo. It had been located southwest of the city technical school and beside the "Stakhanov" technical building workshop. Fifteen days later, the "Stakhanov" workshop burned. Informant could supply no additional information.

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17. Informant stated that he did not listen frequently to foreign anti-Communist broadcasts, but listened most often to Voice of America and the "Turkish radio station in Turkish language." The last foreign anti-Communist broadcast he heard was Voice of America on February 1954, around 7:30 p.m., wave length unknown.

18. Informant said he most enjoyed Voice of America because "the speaker always spoke against the Communists" and because he thought it "told the truth about the bad situation of the Bulgarian people." Foreign broadcasts were considerably jammed, and he could only understand about half of Voice of America. Informant stated that he rarely spoke with his friends about foreign broadcasts. Informant considered noon the best time of day for listening to anti-Communist broadcasts, since there was less danger of eavesdropping at that time.

Radio Sets

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19. Informant, who had his own independent radio receiver, also listened to radio broadcasts at the homes of his relatives. All of these receivers had long, medium and short waves. Only his cousin's set had five waves - long, medium and three short waves. Power was supplied by electric current.

20. Informant's cousin's receiver, of German make, cost 1900 leva (former price, 2200 leva). Informant's family owned a "Blaupunkt" radio receiver with three I tubes, which they bought for 45,000 old leva.

21. According to informant, the price of radio receivers depends on the model, trade mark and size. Informant knew the price of the following radio receivers:

- a. "Marek" - Bulgarian radio receiver - 1,300 leva (three wave);
- b. "Voroshilov" - Bulgarian radio - 950 leva (three wave);
- c. "Tesla" - Bohemian radio (small model) - 2,250 leva;
- d. "Tesla" - Bohemian radio (big model) - 4,000 leva (former price), five wave; and
- e. "Visokogovoriteli" - for city or village radio system; there are two types costing between 100 and 200 leva.

According to informant, there are only Bulgarian, Bohemian and East German radios in Bulgarian State shops.

22. Informant stated that it is very difficult to find replacement parts for radios in Bulgaria. [redacted] who was a keeper of a State shop in which radio receivers were bought, he knows that there are only nine different types of radio tubes in State shops. No other replacement parts can be found in Khaskovo. Batteries for radios can be found in Khaskovo [redacted] month of July 1954, there were none in Khaskovo.

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23. Informant claims that it was not necessary to receive permission in order to buy replacement parts for a radio or a new radio. After buying a new radio, the owner has to go to the City People's Council to receive a license ("Patent-Permission") for his radio receiver. From there he goes to the City Post Station to be issued another certificate that he has a right to own the radio.

24. Informant stated that there was a yearly use tax on radio sets, but does not know how much it was. The tax was paid to the City Post Station.

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9. In Gurmen, there were about 20 radios in the 450 houses in the village. According to informant, most of the radios in Gurmen belonged to anti-Communists. Informant claims that it is not dangerous to listen to foreign broadcasts, and never heard of anyone arrested or sent to jail for listening to foreign broadcasts. Informant said that the Bulgarian radio owners listened regularly to foreign anti-Communist broadcasts.

Reaction to Foreign Anti-Communist Broadcasts

10. Informant stated that he did not listen often to foreign anti-Communist broadcasts. When he did listen, he usually heard the Voice of America and Radio Goryanin.
11. The last foreign broadcasts informant heard were Voice of America and Radio Goryanin during April 1954 in Nevrokop. Informant heard these programs at the following hours:
- a. Voice of America - at 12 a.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.; and
 - b. Radio Goryanin - at 12:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m., and 6 p.m.
12. Informant said he most enjoyed the Voice of America and the commentary on the pact among Free World countries against Communism, and "Radio Goryanin" with word of the coming people's anti-Communist revolution. Informant claims that VOA was not jammed, and he could listen to the entire program. He stated that there was very strong jamming of "Goryanin" broadcasts, and that only 20% of the program could be heard clearly.
13. Informant stated that Saturday evening and all day Sunday around 9 p.m. was the best time of day for listening to foreign broadcasts.

Radio Sets

14. About every ten days, informant listened to a three wave radio set at the home of a relative. Power was supplied by electric current. Informant's relative said that he would have to go to Flodiv to replace a burned out tube as there were no State shops for replacement parts in Devin. No permit was needed to purchase parts.
15. In informant's neighborhood [] only one out of 25 houses had an independent radio. There were about 8-10 wire receivers for the city radio system. More homes have independent radios in the center of town where the Communist leader resides. The majority of these homes were Communist. The city radio system was located in the city reading room.

Reaction to Foreign Anti-Communist Broadcasts

16. Informant stated that there were no legal restrictions on listening to foreign anti-Communist broadcasts, but that it was dangerous to listen to such broadcasts for the following reasons:
- a. One can be declared an enemy of the People's Democracy and persecuted by the Communists.
 - b. The radio can be taken away by the militia. Informant stated that during May 1954, militiamen took away the radio [] resident [] because he listened to foreign anti-Communist broadcasts from America and Turkey.
 - c. The militia can call one in for a warning that to continue to listen to foreign anti-Communist broadcasts and spread their news will mean being sent to jail.

Informant claims that many militia agents walk around the homes of anti-Communists and eavesdrop.

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Radio Sets

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1. Informant had a "Telefunken" radio receiver in his home and also listened to his friends radios. The radios were three wave and were operated on electric current. The "Telefunken" radio cost 120,000 old Bulgarian leva. It was a big radio with six I tubes and electric phonograph. According to informant, the following radios were in State shops in Bulgaria.
 - a. East German radio - 4,300 leva, six I tubes, three waves;
 - b. "Tesla" Bohemian radio - 1,200-1,300 leva; medium model; three waves;
 - c. Bohemian radio with three waves and electric phonograph; 2,800 leva;
 - d. East German small radio with five waves; 1,100 leva (former price, 1,350 leva);
 - e. Small radio (trademark unknown) with three waves; 950 leva;
 - f. "Marek" Bulgarian radio, three waves; 1,700 leva; and
 - g. A wired radio box sold in Bulgarian State stores; 135 leva; with installation the price became 250 leva.

Informant does not know the price of a battery radio receiver.

2. Informant claims that there was a yearly or semi-annual use tax on radios which amounted to 25 or 45 leva. It was paid to the City Post Station.
3. Informant stated that there were replacement parts in Bulgarian State stores, but only for the new models of radios. He knew that some radio technicians found that the tubes for the "Tesla" radio, after a small change, could be used for the old model radios. He was unable to say exactly which models. Informant claims that there are also batteries in Bulgarian State stores.
4. In informant's neighborhood (10 houses), approximately 50% of the community had wired receivers. Informant said that most of this group were Communists, and that many of the radios of anti-Communists had been confiscated for unpaid taxes; others had sold their radios because they needed money.

Reaction to Foreign Anti-Communist Broadcasts

5. Informant claimed that once or twice a week the electric current had been stopped at the time when foreign stations broadcast the news. He listened most often to Radio Free Europe and Radio London. The last foreign broadcast informant heard was Radio Free Europe [redacted] in Khaskovo, around 12:45 a.m., 6 p.m., 10 p.m., and 1 a.m., short waves 31, 49 and between 31.5 and 32 meters from the sector to the short waves. Informant liked best the political humor "Pizho and Pendo" of Radio Free Europe.
6. Informant said that Saturday and Sunday were the best days for listening, and 10 p.m. was the best time as there was less jamming and because more people were at home.

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Radio Sets

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7. Informant listened to the radio [redacted] and also to the city radio system in Nevrokop and Gurmen. The radios were three wave and operated on electric current.
8. Informant claims that the "Voroshilov" Bulgarian radio cost 900 leva, and the "Tesla" Bohemian radio (medium type) cost 1800-2200 leva.

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